

*Appl. No. 10/027,721*

*Amdt.. Dated October 17, 2003*

*Reply to Office action mailed July 17, 2003 (Paper No. 9)*

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action mailed July 17, 2003 (Paper No. 9). Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-12 were pending in the application. Claims 7, 11 and 12 have been amended herein. Accordingly, following entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-12 will be pending. As set forth more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

**Objection to the Claims**

The Examiner has objected to Claim 11 as containing a grammatical error. Applicants have amended Claim 11 to correct the grammar.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,866,964 (hereinafter "Hall"). Applicants have amended Claims 7 and 12 to specify that when the rotor is rotated by the key, the back spring urges the rotor in a direction opposite to the direction of the rotation.

The device disclosed in Hall includes a spring clip (32) that prevents a removable core (14) from coming out of a core lock (10). However, when the removable core (14) is rotated by an operating key (22), the spring clip (32) does not urge the removable core (14) in a direction opposite to the direction of the rotation. Therefore, there is a structural difference between the present invention and the device disclosed in Hall and Claims 7 and 12 are patentable over Hall

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because Hall fails to disclose a back spring for urging a rotor in a direction opposite to the direction of the rotation of the rotor. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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